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Messrs.
Associated Press

ARGENTINA PROJECT Buenos Aires, April 10, 1978

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s): _____

Dear Sirs:

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

() Classify as _____ () Extend as _____ () Downgrade to _____

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

BB078

The undersigned, Horacio Domingo MAGGIO, Argentine, National Identity Card No.

6,308,359, ex-delegate general, member of the internal trade union committee
of the Provincial Bank of Santa Fé, Main Branch, ^{writes} ~~addresses~~ your office in order

of
to let you know/the bitter experience that I had to go through when I was

kidnapped by the Argentine Navy.

~~these~~ two facts:

My attitude stems basically from ~~the~~ my being a Christian and also an activist
in the Montonero Peronist Movement; as well as my ^{conviction} ~~commitment~~ that the press

^{the information has gone}
must have at its disposal all ~~elements of judgment~~ on what ~~is going~~ on in our

~~this~~
country since March 24, 1976, /to be able to inform -- as it has always done --

^{in spite of} the
for the public ~~opinion~~ /menaces and kidnappings ~~and~~ that ~~the~~ newspapermen

have also suffered.

Buenos Aires

I was kidnapped in ~~the Federal Capital~~ on February 15, 1977 while I was walking

on Rivadavia St., one block away from Flores Park. The group which kidnapped

^{me} identify itself as Joint Forces / ^{(Fuerzas Conjuntas).} Needless to say, I was carried away forcefully

~~and~~ ~~while~~ I was ~~being~~ ~~hit~~. beaten.

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From there I was taken to a place which (later I learned was the Mechanical School of the ~~Army~~) I was subjected to torture (electric rod or ~~machine~~ ^{Picana} and "the submarine") as well as ~~the greater part~~ ^{most} of the people there and who still remain there.

Among others ^{there were!} Roberto Ahumada, from Santa Fe, national leader of Peronist Youth; Mrs. Osatinsky, widow of ^a Montonero leader and people's martyr; Marcos Osatinsky, murdered in 1976 in Cordoba City; Alicia Millin de Pirles ^{from} Santa Fé; Mrs. Orsci, sociologist, ex-dean of the Tourism School of Mar del Plata, ~~and~~ ^{were removed from there were!} others who ~~are no longer there~~ ^{are no longer there} newspaperman Jara; the ~~leader~~ ^{of} national leader of the Peronista Montonero Movement ^(Jaime Dri) who had been

kidnapped in Uruguay; Mrs. Alicia Eguren, wife of John Williams Cooke, etc.

On March 17, 1978 I was able to ^{escape} ~~leave~~ from that place.

During ~~the~~ ^{the} 13 months ~~I~~ spent there, I suffered and watched the most brutal

and savage activities of this endless dictatorship, which is ~~trying~~ trying

UN suc ~~un~~ successfully to ~~reduce~~ reduce to submission ~~the~~ ~~total~~ ~~of~~ our whole country.

It ^{Such} is the case of the two French nuns Alice Domon and Renee Duquet.

It ^{to} I had a chance ~~to~~ talk personally with Sister Alice, as she was taken,

together with Sister Renee, to the ^{third floor} ~~3rd~~ ~~floor~~ where the officer's mess is located,

and where I was kept prisoner. This took place around the 11 or 12 of ~~december~~ ^{December}, 1977.
1977.

During the conversation she ~~told~~^{told} me that they had been kidnapped, and that they had been made, under torture, to ~~write~~^{write} a letter by hand in French, addressed to the Superior of their Order, and that ~~the~~ photographs had been taken of them in what they thought ~~it~~ was the basement of the above mentioned building.

She also told me that ~~together~~ with them another 11 persons had been kidnapped. *

Navy
at the *Mechanical School*
They remained ~~there~~ for about 10 days and later were "~~taken~~" with those *"transferred"*
unknown
other to *surplace*. *quotation marks*
11 persons, ~~I don't know where~~. I use ~~inverted commas~~ because there were ~~any~~

many cases like this and later noone knew of their whereabouts. ~~Besides,~~

~~The~~ ~~rumors had it like that basically~~ Because of the haste with which they were *taken away there were rumors* removed from the place that the 13 people might have been killed.

Something similar happened with *Mrs.* Norma Esther Arrostito, *a/* leader of the Montonero Movement, who ~~although~~ was ~~presumed to be~~ *presumably* dead, *actually* was alive until January 15, 1978, *holding up* ~~being~~ heroic and stoically during more than one year of detainment.

mental the ~~psychic~~ and physic pressure of the Navy officers. *on/* That day, she fainted *peculiar way and was* in a ~~not very clear way~~, then ~~is~~ given an injection and ~~died~~, according to ~~it should~~

fact rumours, in the Navy Hospital(?). The ~~truth~~ is that she never returned to her cell.

Another similar case was that of Dr. Hidalgo Solá, Argentine Ambassador to Venezuela. According to rumours that were going around ~~on~~ ^{third floor,} ~~the~~ ^{out of the Navy Mechanical School} the group that operated ~~in~~ ^{was} responsible for ~~the~~ ^{this} action.

~~The young Swedish girl who had a bullet~~ ^{because of} ~~in her head~~ ^{wound} ~~and~~ ~~was~~ ~~semi-~~

^{semi-}handicapped ~~and~~ ^{who} ~~had~~ ^{disappeared} in January, 1977, was also there; she was

The living conditions in that place are ~~very~~ similar to those prevailing

before the ~~XXXXXX~~ Assembly of 1813.

^{forced to lie} We were ~~lying~~ ^{a/} down 24 hours ~~per~~ day on mattresses on the floor. These mat-

tresses were separated ~~one~~ ^{each} from ~~the~~ other by ~~means of~~ wooden partitions, or we

were kept in cells ^{with} up to four ~~per~~ ^{in each} persons ~~per~~ cell. We ~~were~~ ^{had} all/shackles

^{and had} ~~on~~ our legs ~~and~~ ^{had} hoods or glasses which ~~did~~ ^{did} not allow you to see. ^{Besides} ~~The~~ place

^{was} ~~besides~~ infested with rats.

The methods used by these people to rid themselves of the thousands of

^{have} kidnapped people changed. ~~During the first years~~ At the beginning

^{code} when this para-military group was formed, whose ~~internal~~ name is

Task Group 3.3.3. (T.G.3.3.3.) in order to differentiate itself from other ^{groups} which

report to the Army and the Air Force, they used to get five or six people in a

car, shoot them and then set ^{fire to} the car ~~in~~ the PanAmerican Highway area. Later

the method was changed and the prisoners were ^{in the Mechanical School} ~~hanged in BMA~~ and ~~the~~ the

corpses thrown into the river. ~~Presently~~ At present, they are given a ~~sleeping~~

^{big injection of a sleeping drug and} ~~semiferous~~ they are wrapped in a ~~canvas~~ piece of canvas and thrown in the sea.

^{For} the two latter procedures a helicopter is used. One of the kidnapped people

^{all this} was told ~~the above stories~~ by ^a ~~one~~ petty-officer known as "Chispa".

This followed ~~very well~~ a certain pattern that some of us had noticed.

During the days in which the so-called "transferences" took place, the disciplinary

measures and the physical treatment of the prisoners hardened, ~~increased with~~

^{there were} at times ^{it was} corporal punishment ~~with~~ rubber batons or ~~prohibited~~ to ~~use~~ the

~~sanitary installations.~~ ^{by} ~~bathrooms,~~

^{time} ~~one given time opportunity,~~ I was able to see ^{by} lifting the hood which

~~was~~ covered my head ^{being} ~~a~~ young man around 20-23 years old ~~was~~ placed semi-

^{piece of} ~~unconscious~~ on a white ~~canvas.~~

Another ~~concurrent~~ factor was that after the "transference^Ss" were made,

~~which~~ usually took place on Wednesdays, ^{the noise of} a helicopter could be heard.

The people directly responsible for this are those who make up the paramilitary group which is located inside ESMA ^{and} specifically in the officers mess which they call "EL DORADO". They are, in a hierarchical order:

1. Jacinto CHAMORRO, RearAdmiral, Director of the Escuela de Mecanica de la Armada, alias "DELFIN" or "MAXIMO".
2. Captain ----- alias "GASTON"
3. ACOSTA, Lieutenant Commander, alias "TIGRE" or "SANTIAGO", for all practical purposes the leader of the group. He has a brother who is a Captain or Major in the Army and who at times visits the concentration camp.
4. Lieutenant Commander -----alias "LEON"
5. LieutenantJorge PERREN, alias "PUMA" or "OCTAVIO". This man is presently in Paris, France, working in a clandestine way in the Pilot Center and connected with the Argentine Embassy there. When I say clandestine I mean that they all have ^{personal} faked documentation

6. Lieutenant J.G. -----alias "MARIANO"
7. Lieutenant J.G. Antonio PERNIAS, alias "TRUENO" or "MARTIN". Also presently

in France. This man traveled to France at the end of February, ^{PV} beginning of March, presumably to replace Perren who was returning to the country.

8. Coast-Guard Commander or Deputy Coast-Guard Commander alias "DANIEL".

This person, after I escaped from prison, went to my parents' home and

menaced
subtlety ~~asked~~ them and all the others who had stayed behind me in prison in ESMA (about 150 people) should I ever make any type of public statement.

9. Lieutenant or Lieutenant Colonel, ^{his} last name is CORONEL, born in Tucumán.

alias "MACO". Was discharged from the Army at the end of 1977. He has a wound in one of his legs and limps.

10. Captain (Retired) Williams WOMOND or GUAMOND, alias "PABLO". Presently working at the Min. of Foreign Relations (Press Section) with Captain Perez FLORIO (FROIO?). The latter, as well as a Navy commander alias "EL COARA" or "NEGRO"; Foreign Minister Montes; UnderSecretary of Fo.Relations Gualter Allara and many others, visited and inspected the concentration camp.

11. Lieutenant Commander or Commander (Retired) alias "FELIPE", his last name maybe SPINELLI or something similar. Also working at the Ministry of Foreign Relations, Press Section.
12. Ensign or Lieutenant J.G. alias "SERGIO", his last name maybe LUNA. Presently in France working at the Pilot Center
13. Ensign-----his last name could be ACTIS or ATIS, alias "CUERVO" or "RUBIO".

Also in France.
14. Coast-Guard officer, alias "CHISPA" or "OMAR".
15. Police station chief BOERO, Federal Police, alias "ARMANDO"
16. Officer of the Federal Police, alias "FEDERICO"
17. Member of the Federal Police, alias "TIBURON"
18. Member of the Federal Police, alias "ANGOSTO"
19. Officer of the Federal Police, alias "JUAN CARLOS"
20. Officer of the Penitentiary Police, alias "FRAGOTE"
21. Member of the Penitentiary Police, alias "PACO"

22. Member of the Penitentiary Police alias "YOLI" or "EDUARDO"

23. Officer of the Federal Police, alias "BICHO"

I am aware that by denouncing all this I put the life of my wife and children, my parents, my sister, parents-inlaw and other relatives in danger, as well as that of those who are still in that institution.

For that reason, should anything happen to my family (kidnapping or death) and/or to the people who remain in prison, I make the Argentine Military Junta and directly those ~~Army~~ Navy officers operating in ESMA responsible for that.

Sincerely,

Horacio Domingo Maggio

D.N.I.No. 6.308.359

P.S. Enclosed you will find photostats^{to} of some of the documents I was able to steal when I escaped and that would prove the relationship between that/para-military group and the Ministry of Foreign Relations. I also have undebatable proofs of my stay in the ^{/officer's} messroom _{at} ESMA. Also, I wish to provide their phone Number 701-4418.

of the concentration camp .

A letter similar to this was sent also to H.E. The French Ambassador;
the Press Counselor in the French Embassy; H.E. the Ambassador of the U.S. of America;
H.E. Monsignor Raul Primatesta; H.E. Monsignor Vicente Zazpe; to the Conference of the
Argentine Episcopate ; to the Director of France Presse Agency; to the Secretary
General of the United Nations; to the International Labor Organization; to Argentine
and foreign news agencies; to newspapers and magazines; entrepreneurs, businessmen, intel-
lectuals, politicians; to the Military Junta, etc.

I enclose blueprints of the concentration camp.